

LaVA Cooperating Agency

Check-in call 12-11-2019, 9-9:40am

Attendees:

Frank Romero, Leslie Warta, Jeremiah Zamora, Casey Campbell, Katie Cheesbrough, Tony Hoch, Suz Layne, Bret Calloway, Martin Curry, Melissa Mokry, Laura Wagner, Travis Pardue, Dena Egenhoff, Leanne Correll, Keith Brugger

Topics of Discussion:

Frank Romero started by expressing how much we appreciate everyone sticking with us on this project. We're making good progress but still working on updating documents. Specifically working on the following:

- MFEIS
 - Still incorporating Objection pieces, summary of changes, Region will review, then send to writer/editor for final clean-up.
 - Summary section will show how we addressed the objections.
 - The Summary section has 2 new sections, one discusses the objections and how they were addressed, the second section shows changes between FEIS/MFEIS.
 - Roadless - Jason leading the roadless effort. Updated maps and tables.
- Appendix A
 - Met with Routt to do run through on App A.
 - Lot of feedback, especially on how to fill out the forms. Leslie/Melissa will be developing a "how to" guide and process workflow description.
 - Used Fox Creek CE to show benefits of LaVA vs CE.
 - App A comparison document will be produced we're not sure where we'll show it. May include on website, but not necessarily in the NEPA documents themselves, not sure yet but will be publicly available.
- Expected Timeline
 - MFEIS has been priority to get to editor, then App A.
 - Hoping to have more solid info in early January, trying for February for the MFEIS/DROD to go out, but may be later since there are a few things out of our control, specifically the timeframes for RO and WO review.
 - Russ is at RLT this week, working on meeting with Jenna Sloan in the RO to solidify timeframes for RO and WO review.
 - Other big NEPA projects in the region that they must be cognizant of, we can't have overlapping objections in the Region. And since this project is being done under HFRA it has a 30-day rather than 45-day review period.
 - **Will provide an updated release timeline once we have a review timeline from the RO.**
 - Plan to share documents with CAs when we send them to the RO. We can't really take comments at this point but we would like to know if they see any RED FLAGS, should be a focus on the new summary of changes.

- Funding opportunities was discussed, plan to revisit at February meeting.
 - Municipality Watershed Protection opportunities
 - Joint Chiefs, FS and NRCS. Plan ahead to apply for these next summer for FY21 funds.
 - Jason presented LaVA to NR finance class and caught interest. Jason can report on that when we talk about fund opportunities
 - Colorado shared watershed restoration interest, also.
- Implementation: What are meetings going to look like and what are next steps for CAs?
 - Need to discuss this in February.
 - Monthly CA meetings as in the past with the focus changing as the seasons change and we go thru the different phases of the appendix a process.
 - Initial thoughts are project specific local meetings with BCH and LRD and then overlapping projects would be discussed separately.
- Next meetings:
 - January 15 Check-in Call
 - February 19 In person meeting with conference line available.